

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BGEN, NI

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO U.S. FIRM: ABBOTT LABORATORIES

1. DAVID ORTLIEB, PRESIDENT, ABBOTT UNIVERSAL LTD, NORTH CHICAGO, ILL. REQUESTS EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING STATUS VISA APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ABBOTT MANAGING DIRECTOR AUBERY BOUT. ABBOTT HAS TWO EXPAT QUOTAS, ONE PERMANENT (FILLED) AND ONE TEMPORARY (VACANT AND VALID UNTIL 1978). PROBLEM IS THAT PRESENT ABBOTT MANAGING DIRECTOR, PETER MASON, WHILE STILL ON COMPANY BOOKS, HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF DAY-TO-DAY DUTIES. THUS, ABBOTT, OPERATING WITHOUT BOTH MANAGING DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY, EAGER REPLACE MASON WITH BOUT ASAP BUT FEARS FMG RED TAPE OR OTHER FACTORS MAY DELAY BOUT'S VISA APPROVAL.

2. DETAILS FOLLOW: A) AUBERY BOUT - INDIAN NATIONAL; NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION FILE NO. 415/NR13/76 VISA APPLICATION FILED AT NAIROBI JULY 23- 1976; IMMIGRATION SY CHECK PENDING AS OF SEPT. 10, 1976. B) ABBOTT LEGAL COUNSEL: ANGUS FERGUSON, 11/17 TINUBU STREET. FERGUSON RECENTLY TOLD ABBOTT VISA APPROVAL COULD BE EXPECTED SEPT. 15 THEN
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CHANGED PROGNOSIS TO OCT. 1.

3. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: ORTLIEB SPECULATES

MASON MAY BE ACTING OUT OF REVENGE IN ORDER BLOCK BOUT
VISA APPROVAL. WHILE DEPT AWARE LIMITED ASSISTANCE EMBASSY
MAY BE IN OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION (THIS CONVEYED TO
ORTLIEB), WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL QUERIES ON ABBOTT'S
BEHALF. EMBASSY MAY DISCUSS MATTER WITH FERGUSON, BUT
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH MASON. PLEASE ADVISE. ROBINSON

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